

September 23, 2002

three-month statutory period set for responding to the Office Action that was mailed on May 21, 2002. Therefore, a fee is due for a one-month extension; and a check for this fee is enclosed herewith.

In item 1 in the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112" on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 2 and 5 for allegedly being indefinite because Claim 2 is allegedly inconsistent with Claim 1. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Claims 2 and 5 are believed to be clear to someone with ordinary skill in the art.

In items 1-2 in the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 4, 7, and 19 for allegedly being anticipated by two newly cited abstracts--CA 125: 41250, 1996 and CA 129: 44683, 1998 (hereinafter referred to as the "1996 abstract" and the "1998 abstract," respectively). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the 1996 abstract and the 1998 abstract do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In item 3 on page 3 of ~~the outstanding~~ Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 3, 6, and 8 contain allowable subject matter; and in item 4 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 9-18 and 20-38 are allowed. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. It is submitted that the claims of record are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Applicants reserve the right to seek protection for any unclaimed subject matter either subsequently in the prosecution of the present case or in a divisional or continuation application.

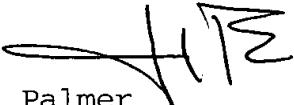
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-3-

September 23, 2002

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415; and, in particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this Response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account No. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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